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**What is claimed is:**

1. A translation apparatus for translating words and phrases from a first language into a second language and from the second language into the first language, said apparatus comprising:

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a microphone for transposing spoken words and phrases into a series of electronic signals;

a receiver electrically connected to said microphone for receiving said series of electronic signals from said microphone;

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an electronic device electrically connected to said receiver for analyzing said series of electronic signals and for generating a first and a second series of impulses;

a visual display electrically connected to said electronic device for receiving said first and second 20 series of impulses from said electronic device;

a switching system for selectively switching said visual display between a first and a second mode

of operation thereof, the arrangement being such that when the words and phrases are spoken into said microphone in the first language, said series of electronic signals corresponding to the words and phrases in the first language are analyzed by said electronic device which generates said first series of impulses which are displayed on said visual display in the first language when said 5 switching system is switched to said first mode of operation thereof, said second series of impulses being displayed on said visual display in the second language when said switching system is switched to said second mode of operation thereof; and

10 said switching system further switching said visual display between a third and a fourth mode of operation thereof, the arrangement being such that when the words and phrases are spoken into said microphone in the second language, a further series of electronic signals corresponding to the words and phrases in the second language are analyzed by said electronic device which generates a third series of impulses which are displayed on said visual display in the second language when said switching system is switched to said third mode of operation thereof, a fourth series of impulses 15 generated by said electronic device being displayed on said visual display in the first language when said switching system is switched to said fourth mode of operation thereof.

2. A translation apparatus as set forth in claim 1

20 further including:

a housing for housing said microphone, receiver, electronic device , visual display and said switching

system.

3. A translation apparatus as set forth in claim 1

5 further including:

a speaker electrically connected to said electronic device for generating an oral reproduction of the words and phrases in said first and second languages.

10 4. A translation apparatus as set forth in claim 3

further including:

15 a volume control electrically connected to said speaker for controlling a volume level of said oral reproduction.

5. A translation apparatus as set forth in claim 3

further including:

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an electrical socket electrically connected to said speaker;

a plug cooperating with said electrical socket;

a headset electrically connected to said plug for enabling a user to listen to said oral reproduction when said plug is inserted into said electrical socket.

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6. A translation apparatus as set forth in claim 1

further including:

10 a source of electrical power selectively connected to said microphone, receiver, electronic device , visual display and said switching system;

an on/off switch disposed between said source of electrical power and said microphone, receiver, electronic device , visual display and said switching system for selectively powering said translation

15 apparatus.

7. A translation apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein

said electronic device includes:

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a card slot;

a translation card for insertion thereof into said card slot.

8. A translation apparatus as set forth in claim 7 wherein

5 said translation card for a particular language is provided so that a card for a particular language can be selected from several translation cards, a selected card being inserted into said card slot as required.

9. A translation apparatus as set forth in claim 8

10 further including:

scroll buttons for scrolling through said translation cards and for automatically inserting a selected card into said card slot.

15 10. A translation apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein

said visual display further includes:

20 a contrast control for controlling contrast between the words and phrases displayed on said visual display and a background.

11. A translation apparatus as set forth in claim 1 wherein

said switching system includes:

5 a first button for use when entering the words and phrases in the first language;

a second button for use when entering the words and phrases in the second language.

12. A translation apparatus as set forth in claim 11 wherein

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said switching system further includes:

a third button for making a selection of which language is to be translated;

15 a fourth button for recording the words and phrases.

13. A translation apparatus for translating words and phrases from a first language into a second language and from the second language into the first language, said apparatus comprising:

20 a microphone for transposing spoken words and phrases into a series of electronic signals;

a receiver electrically connected to said microphone for receiving said series of electronic signals

from said microphone;

an electronic device electrically connected to said receiver for analyzing said series of electronic signals and for generating a first and a second series of impulses;

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a visual display electrically connected to said electronic device for receiving said first and second series of impulses from said electronic device;

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a switching system for selectively switching said visual display between a first and a second mode 10 of operation thereof, the arrangement being such that when the words and phrases are spoken into said microphone in the first language, said series of electronic signals corresponding to the words and phrases in the first language are analyzed by said electronic device which generates said first series of impulses which are displayed on said visual display in the first language when said switching system is switched to said first mode of operation thereof, said second series of impulses 15 being displayed on said visual display in the second language when said switching system is switched to said second mode of operation thereof;

20 said switching system further switching said visual display between a third and a fourth mode of operation thereof, the arrangement being such that when the words and phrases are spoken into said microphone in the second language, a further series of electronic signals corresponding to the words and phrases in the second language are analyzed by said electronic device which generates a third series of impulses which are displayed on said visual display in the second language when said

switching system is switched to said third mode of operation thereof, a fourth series of impulses generated by said electronic device being displayed on said visual display in the first language when said switching system is switched to said fourth mode of operation thereof;

5 said electronic device further including:

a card slot; and

a translation card for insertion thereof into said card slot.

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14. A translation apparatus for translating words and phrases from a first language into a second language and from the second language into the first language, said apparatus comprising:

a microphone for transposing spoken words and phrases into a series of electronic signals;

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a receiver electrically connected to said microphone for receiving said series of electronic signals from said microphone;

an electronic device electrically connected to said receiver for analyzing said series of electronic

20 signals and for generating a first and a second series of impulses;

a visual display electrically connected to said electronic device for receiving said first and second

series of impulses from said electronic device;

a switching system for selectively switching said visual display between a first and a second mode of operation thereof, the arrangement being such that when the words and phrases are spoken into 5 said microphone in the first language, said series of electronic signals corresponding to the words and phrases in the first language are analyzed by said electronic device which generates said first series of impulses which are displayed on said visual display in the first language when said switching system is switched to said first mode of operation thereof, said second series of impulses being displayed on said visual display in the second language when said switching system is 10 switched to said second mode of operation thereof;

said switching system further switching said visual display between a third and a fourth mode of operation thereof, the arrangement being such that when the words and phrases are spoken into said microphone in the second language, a further series of electronic signals corresponding to the words 15 and phrases in the second language are analyzed by said electronic device which generates a third series of impulses which are displayed on said visual display in the second language when said switching system is switched to said third mode of operation thereof, a fourth series of impulses generated by said electronic device being displayed on said visual display in the first language when said switching system is switched to said fourth mode of operation thereof;

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said translation apparatus further including:

a housing for housing said microphone, receiver, electronic device , visual display and said switching system;

5 a speaker electrically connected to said electronic device for generating an oral reproduction of the words and phrases in said first and second languages;

a volume control electrically connected to said speaker for controlling a volume level of said oral reproduction;

10 an electrical socket electrically connected to said speaker;

a plug cooperating with said electrical socket;

15 a headset electrically connected to said plug for enabling a user to listen to said oral reproduction when said plug is inserted into said electrical socket;

a source of electrical power selectively connected to said microphone, receiver, electronic device , visual display and said switching system;

20 an on/off switch disposed between said source of electrical power and said microphone, receiver, electronic device , visual display and said switching system for selectively powering said translation apparatus;

said electronic device including:

a card slot ;

5        a translation card for insertion thereof into said card slot;  
          said translation card for a particular language being provided so that a card for a particular language can be selected from several translation cards, a selected card being inserted into said card slot as required;

10       scroll buttons for scrolling through said translation cards and for automatically inserting a selected card into said card slot;

said visual display further including:

15       a contrast control for controlling contrast between the words and phrases displayed on said visual display and a background;

said switching system including:

20       a first button for use when entering the words and phrases in the first language;  
          a second button for use when entering the words and phrases in the second language;  
          a third button making a selection of which language is to be translated; and